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Message Text

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63
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12

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---------- 095370
R 291527Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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EXCON

DEPT FOR INR/OIL/B

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: COCOM, PDIP, FR
SUBJECT: NEW FRENCH COCOM DELEGATE PIERRE-ANDRE DUMONT

REF: OECD PARIS 728, STATE 8768

1. AFTER TWO YEARS AS FIRST COUNSELOR (DCM) AT FRENCH EMBASSY IN YAOUNDE, PIERRE-ANDRE DUMONT LEFT CAMEROON JANUARY 19 ON TRANSFER TO QUAI'S BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND POSITION AS FRENCH DELEGATE TO COCOM.

2. DUMONT HAD NEVER SERVED BEFORE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, AND WAS NOT RPT NOT ENCHANTED WITH YAOUNDE, ESPECIALLY DURING HIS FIRST YEAR WHEN HE FOUND CAMEROONIANS "RESERVED, EVEN SUSPICIOUS." HE ENJOYED POST SOMEWHAT MORE DURING SECOND YEAR WHEN HE FELT IT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH BETTER IF STILL LIMITED RAPPORT WITH CAMEROONIANS. DUMONT OFTEN MENTIONED HIS MUCH-WARMER MEMORIES OF ARAB WORLD WHERE HE HAD SERVED THRICE PREVIOUSLY.

3. DUMONT FREQUENTLY SEEMED REMOTE AND OUTWARDLY COLD TOWARDS COLLEAGUES AT OTHER EMBASSIES. AT OTHER TIMES, LESS OFTEN,
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HE WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY. APPARENTLY MOODY, HE WAS ALWAYS

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POLITE, EVEN WHEN DISTANT, AND QUIET, EVEN WHEN FRIENDLY. SEEMED PERHAPS MORE AT EASE WITHIN CONFINES OF FRENCH COMMUNITY IN YAOUNDE THAN WITH CAMEROONIANS OR OTHER NON-FRENCHMEN. HIS WIFE WAS SOMEWHAT MORE OUTGOING, BUT THEY BOTH GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE PEOPLE WHO NEVERTHELESS KNEW THEIR WAY AROUND IN THE DIPLOMATIC WORLD. BOTH ARE INTELLIGENT. ALSO STRONGLY DEVOTED TO THEIR FIVE CHILDREN, OF WHOM ONE HAS FINISHED UNIVERSITY, THREE OTHERS CURRENTLY ATTENDING UNIVERSITY, AND YOUNGEST FINISHING FINAL YEAR AT LYCEE. DUMONTS WANTED TO RETURN TO POSTING IN PARIS, DESPITE APPARENT FINANCIAL HARDSHIP, IN ORDER REMAIN IN CLOSER CONTACT WITH CHILDREN THAN POSSIBLE FROM YAOUNDE.

4. ALTHOUGH PLEASED TO RETURN TO PARIS, DUMONT LEFT YAOUNDE UNENTHUSED BY ASSIGNMENT AS COCOM DELEGATE. REFERRED DURING VERY FRIENDLY FINAL CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY DCM TO ONGOING ASSIGNMENT AS "SOMEWHAT STUPID" AND COCOM OPERATION, OF WHICH HE ADMITTEDLY KNEW PRECIOUS LITTLE, AS APPEARING OUTDATED IN TODAY'S WORLD. MENTIONED HE WOULD BE IN COCOM JOB FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR, THE PERHAPS ON TO SOMETHING ELSE.

5. DUMONT NEVER, AS SOME FRENCH DIPLOMATS SEEM APLOGETICALLY INCLINED TO DO, PROFESSED ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY FEELINGS TOWARD U.S.; NOR DID HE EVER SHOW SLIGHTEST INDICATION OF BEING ANTI-AMERICAN. RATHER, HE GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING AN THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL, THOROUGHLY FRENCH DIPLOMAT. DUMONT NEITHER SPEAKS NOR UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH, ALTHOUGH HE APPARENTLY HAD THE USUAL SCHOOL EXPOSURE TO LANGUAGE.
MOORE

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TAGS: PDIP, AORG, FR, COCOM, (DUMONT, PIERRE-ANDREW)
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